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F False Alarms About Venezuela.

Of the sensational rumors so prevalent on Wednesday and Thursday last to the effect that the President would soon send a special message to Congress in respect of our alleged disagreements with Venezuela, it may be said with some approach to confidence that there is no present probability of such a consummation.

It is pretty well understood by this time that the Calhoun report, which for many months past has been the subject of anxious and more or less enlightened speculation, raises several points upon which it will be necessary for the United States and Venezuela to reach a better understanding than now exists. Both as regards the asphalt company's claims and those of the Orinoco company there still remain loose ends of controversy. Nothing of imminent international importance is involved, nor is there pressing occasion for immediate activity. Of course, these matters must receive attention sooner or later, and it is conceivable that circumstances not new visible may arise in the near future and make an earlier adjustment desirable. At the moment, however, there is no reason to expect an overture from Washington, and certainly none to expect one of hostile or aggressive character.

It may be said, we think, that the day of bustle and menace is over, so far as concerns our dealings with the Latin American republics. The country has passed through an experience of that policy and hails its return to more dignified and rational expedients with unfeigned gratitude. We did not endear ourselves to the outside world by swaggering and scowling about Beirut and Tangier or by hurling ultimatums at Venezuela a few years ago. The American people, with practical unanimity, will rejoice in the substitution of a régime of common sense and temperance.

We venture to hope that what differences may now subsist between the United States and Venezuela will in the end be adjusted to the peace and honor and self-respect of both countries. There is in them, no legitimate material of explosion or of tragedy, nor is it easily imaginable that under the firm, wise, imperturbable guidance of ELIHU ROOT the semblance of such material will be generated by the ferment of ignorance and folly.

Battleship and Submarine.

In recommending the construction of submarines as well as battleships of the Dreadnought class President ROOSEVELT runs the risk of losing one of the big ships he wants this year, for there seems to be a leaning in the House Naval Committee toward submarines on the score of economy.

The battle between the types is still being fought out in France, where the plan of M. THOMSON, Minister of Marine. calling for the construction of six 18,000 ton battleships is always in danger. Efforts have been made by the submarine enthusiasts to commit Admiral Four-NIER, the Commander-in-Chief, to their proposal to cut down the number of big battleships authorized and spend a part of the cost in building submarines and submersibles. They plead the necessity for economy as well as the success of the torpedo craft in the manœuvres in the Mediterranean last summer. It is true the submarines approached so close to a squadron without being detected that if it had been real instead of mimic war they could have discharged their torpedoes with terrible execution, assuming a good average of hits. Moreover, they defeated

a fleet attack on Toulon. But the report of Admiral FOURNIER on the manœuvres should confound the submarine partisans, who brook no rival of their favorites. The Admiral is an advocate of both big ships and submarines, which latter term includes submersibles—the submarine for harbor defence, and the submersible, a swifter and more seaworthy boat, for offensive work in the open. While not abating his enthusiasm for these hornets of attack, he contended that they should be auxiliary to the big ship, in which he is a stout believer. So if M. THOMSON can have his way to the end the new battleship fleet will be laid down and put in commission. Two of them, the Danton and Mirabeau, have been ordered, and the Voltaire, Diderot, Condorcet and Vergniaud "authorized."

Now, the point is that if France, which has gone further than any other nation in developing submarines and has already a grand flotilla of them, turns in spite of a contracted budget to the Dreadnought class of battleship as the great desideratum in national defence, our cheeseparing economists in Washington, who would save on Dreadnoughts by building submarines, cannot have a leg to stand upon. If either a battleship or a submarine group | heir apparent in a European monarchy, is to be sacrificed, by all means let it be | and the Secretary of State, who stands the submarines. But better two of the second in succession to the Presidency,

limited fiotilla of hornets.

The last word always to be said on this ubject, if economy should be pleaded, is that the United States, being three thousand miles from a European enemy and four thousand from an Asiatic, is from her isolated position practically immune from attack in home waters. The order then should be, if there must be precedence: first the big battleship and afterward the submarines. For the latter, it is true, there might be need in Manila harbor. Then let a flotilla of the boats we possess be always stationed

An Ambassador From Chile?

The Chilean Parliament has passed bill creating the post of Ambassador to the United States, and it is expected that Argentina will soon follow the example. Unless he refuses to conform to the precedents set in the cases of Brazil and Mexico, President ROOSEVELT will, we suppose, exercise the discretion given him by the act of Congress of March 1, 1893, to direct that our representative at Santiago shall bear the same title.

Where is the line to be drawn? Chile has less than three million inhabitants, and if we accept an Ambassador from her, how can we decline to receive one from Peru, which has a population of nearly five millions, or from Colombia, which has nearly four millions? The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Portugal in respect of population transcend the five million mark. Then, again, it would be ungracious, if we welcome an Ambassador from Chile, to repel an envoy of the same grade from Chile's neighbor, Bolivia, which has about 1,600,000 inhabitants; vet, having taken that further step, we could hardly avoid receiving an Ambassador from Hayti which has about 1,300,000 inhabitants In the end, therefore, the state of things might recur which existed before we recognized the grade of Ambassador. when, by virtue of a longer residence in Washington, the representative of Hayti became dean of the diplomatic corps. It is doubtful whether Congress would

ever have approved the appointment of Ambassadors, much less have failed to specify the number and destination of envoys of that grade, had a proposal to that effect been made the subject of debate. As a matter of fact, the legislation authorizing the President, whenever he should be informed that any foreign Government was about to be represented at Washington by an Ambassador, to direct that our envoy to that Government should bear the same designation, was inserted as a clause in one of the regular appropriation bills, and was passed through both Houses without a word of discussion or comment. The clause expressly provided that the change of designation should in no wise affect the duties, powers or salary of such representatives, although Secretary FRELINGHUYSEN had pointed out that the State Department could not. in justice to its Ministers abroad, ask Congress to give them higher rank with their existing salaries.

The principal reason for a change in the practice which had been followed from the outset of our national history was that Ambassadors take precedence over Ministers in the order of reception and seating on ceremonial occasions and at entertainments. It is also true that at some European capitals, as, for example, at Constantinople, Ambassadors take precedence of Ministers as regards the order of admission to interviews at the Foreign Office. As Mr. John W. FOSTER has pointed out, however, the true remedy for the embarrassment or annoyance which American diplomatists may have suffered because of the traditional inferiority of the grade of Minister

to that of Ambassador would have been to take the initiative in a movement for the abolishment of all rank in the diplomatic body. We may be sure that a resolute demand on our part for such abolishment would have been deferred to, for when GEORGE BANCROFT, our Minister at Berlin, was subjected to discriminative treatment by reason of his grade he protested, and BISMARCK decided that the practice should not continue. The rule then promulgated by the Iron Chancellor-a rule which prevailed for some time at St. Petersburg also-was that "the chief of a mission

who arrives first at the Foreign Office shall be first admitted, whether his rank be that of Ambassador, Minister or Chargé." It is, indeed, extremely improbable that the absence of Ambassadorial rank has ever prevented, or ever would prevent, any really able Minister of the United States from rendering

his country a needed service.

There has come down from mediæval times a theory that an Ambassador, because of his supposed personation of the head of his State, has a right to demand an audience at any time with the chief of the nation to which he is accredited. That is a privilege which still has some importance in Constantinople, and possibly also at St. Petersburg. Professor MARTENS, however, a high Russian authority on the subject, says that all diplomatic agents, without regard to

grade, are equal, all possessing in a like degree all diplomatic rights. He would not admit that an Ambassador has a fight to demand a personal interview with the sovereign. Professor MARTENS also pointed out that the constitutional government of west European monarchies compels Ambassadors to treat Mr. SPOONER deeply. with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. It is obvious, indeed, that the privilege of conferring personally with the head of a State can, except in the case of autoc-

be conducted only through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Secretary BAYARD foretold that our reception of Ambassadors would be followed by silly disputes about precedence. The prediction was quickly fulfilled. Scarcely had the first Ambassadors arrived in Washington when the question arose whether the Vice-President of the United States, who corresponds to the

racies, have no particular value, be-

cause the verbal statements of a mon-

arch are not State acts. Formal and

binding international negotiations can

big fellows and some additions to our should give place at entertainments and public functions to the new dignitaries. The question was settled in favor of the Vice-President, but the Secretary of State yielded precedence to the Ambassadors, although in monarchical countries Ambassadors give place, not only to the heir apparent, but to the second in succession or heir presumptive, and, indeed, to all persons in the line of suc-

It might be well for Congress to take up the subject anew, and provide that Ambassadors should be sent only to foreign capitals at which we formerly maintained Ministers of the first rank to whom was allotted the highest pay. Otherwise, the President in the exercise of his discretion may be driven to receiving Ambassadors from countries more and more insignificant until once more the representative of Hayti becomes the dean of the diplomatic corps. That would reduce to an absurdity the chatter about precedence.

A Radiant Military Event. We have sung many heroes. Before the musing eye the procession marches; often several hours in passing a given point, if the buffet is good and the weather invites to wet. "The Boston Lancers on their livery prancers curvet and caracole." The dazed air swims in red; Governors drive by; memory smells the commencement punch at Cambridge, a fount that flows no more, alas! no more. The Ancient and Honorables charge, irregular but great, a kaleidoscope of uniforms, a Bacchic frieze; the Worcester Continentals in their brand new regimentals pervade the continent and are never late for the ball. The Amoskeag Veterans blaze like watchfires. The Governor's Footguards glitter over Connecticut. The legs, matchless and priceless, of the Putnam Phalanx of Hartford are planted grandly on the ways of war. Sculptors worship them. No good man has the envious and impotent wish of the New Haven Footguardsmen to "knock the stuffing" out of those pillars of the temple of Mars. The Philadelphia City Troop-but must we extend the review? Enough to say that the East is rich in warriors, and that no cohort or company of them surpasses in fitness the Old Guard of this town. The Old Guard buys," but it never surrenders. It goes to visit its brother organizations; it is visited gladly by them. Then there is a free interchange of the latest improvements in military science, tailoring and corkscrews. The grand march is led often, and innocent merriment grows like a flower on the ramparts of combat.

The annual poem of its laureate reminds us that the Old Guard is soon to give its annual review, appropriately called a ball. Most of the military and civic heroes of the world have been invited Its laurente, the same golden lipped son of song who used to celebrate the "blue coats and white pants" of these dauntless legionaries, tells us now:

"All Old Guard entertainments are rather in pressive, and everything done by the Old Guard's well appointed committee is perfectly done; and what is lacking in gavety is more than atoned for the excellence of the royal welcome and gen erous hospitality one receives from an Old Guards nan, who always wants you to feel happy and enjo ourself. They are known all over the country a royal good fellows."

Not only all over the country, but mong the royalists of Lobsteria. Old Guardsmen are excellent men of business, many of them; visions of martial splendor, most of them; admirably fortified all of them; and in spite of their professional ferocity, not one of 'em would hurt a fly. How can there be any lack of gavety at their review? They will be solemn themselves. Does anybody expect BELLONA to grin? Harnessed with difficulty into their warlike gear, they cannot look otherwise than solemn. But there will be gavety to spare. The Old Guardsman "wants you to feel happy"; when the cruel march is over he will be as happy as his harness permits

We have sung many heroes. Now we sing New York's. May this tempest of fight blow itself off adequately!

A Last Appearance?

On Wednesday of this week Mr. JAMES R. GARFIELD appeared before the House Committee on Interstate Commerce and urged that body to report a bill in favor of Federal licenses for corporations doing an interstate business.

The cause of centralization will lose much, and our business interests may gain something, by the transfer of Mr GARFIELD to the Department of the Interior. In that field he may to some extent recover from his Federal license mania. At any rate his opportunities for

parading it will be curtailed. This is probably Mr. GARPIELD's last official struggle for his pet theory-a sort of farewell performance. There will probably be no recall. The country is even now trying hard to adjust itself to the centralization that has been forced

upon it. It may or may not be remembered that was Mr. SPOONER who precipitated the fisticuffs on the floor of the Senate between Mr. TILLMAN and his colleague McLAURIN by demanding that the senior Senator name the man whom he charged with selling his vote for Federal patronage. "You had no right to press me," said TILLMAN repros fully to SPOONER afterward. But the dis cipline was salutary. It made an epoch Mr. Tillman's apology to the Senate was

The Denver Republican makes an innious but futile effort to block the Beveridge boom. The Grand Young Man has "sounded" at his "keynote" and "slogan"
"Umbrellas must go." They are effemi nate. He scorns them and bids the rain do its worst. The Colorado enemy of rising merit tries to belittle the no umbrells

" It is believed that a little rough life on the plain is what Senator BEVERIDGE needs to cure him of such a pose. Forest rangers, cowboys and other men whose life is in the open do not carry umbrel las, largely for the reason that the umbrella and will not travel together in peace and comfort. But in the equipment of every ranger or cowboy will be found a 'slicker' that covers

a rainstorm comes up. ALBERT the Good neither poses nor reposes. He speaks to the sturdy millions of men with "the stuff" in them. If cowboys and rangers mume themselves

"allokers," they are too soft-Campanian THE FOREIGN TRADE CONVEN- DR. GEER'S TYPEWRITER GUILD.

for his ruggedness. The umbrells is not

TION. only effeminate but it is a badge of royalty, of Oriental despotism. Moreover, it is a subject and cause of perpetual petty lar-

Mr. BEVERIDGE appeals to Nature. Nature rains. Nature doesn't carry an umbrella. Strong men are not afraid of a little wet. HANNIBAL HAMLIN never wore an overcoat. GEORGE N. BRIGGS never wore a collar. WILLIAM ALFRED PEPPER never wore a cravat. ALBERT JEREMIAH Beverings will never wear an umbrella Upon this issue he submits himself and his cause to a hardy and healthy nation.

Massachusetts still bears the palm of rue goodness. A Worcester Judge holds that the shoeing of a fire department horse on Sunday is not a work of necessity. A \$10 for selling that destructive beverage west cider. And yet we wonder at BUTIN MORAN

The title of Recorder, as applied to one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions in New York county, has no significance now, and there is really no practical reason for retaining it. The law dictionaries assure us that "anciently 'Recorder signified to recite or testify on recollection, as occasion might require, what had previously passed in court; and this was the duty of the Judges, thence called 'recordeurs." In the Dongan charter of 1686 JAMES GRAHAM, Esq., was named "to be the present recorder of the said city; to do and execute all things which unto the office of recorder of the said city doth or may in any wise appertain or belong." In those days the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen were empowered to make free citizens held court, and performed many other

The Recorder retained many non-judicial luties until the end of the last century, and under the Consolidation Act, as force in 1891, he was a member of the board of revision and correction of assessments and a commissioner of the sinking fund By the charter of the present city the Re-corder became an official of the county of New York, being relieved of his extra-

It is now proposed to abolish the title and to elect a mere Judge of the Court of General Sessions as the successor of the last incumbent. In the desirability of regularity in nomenclature a good argument in favor of the change is found, but with the disappearance of the title another link between the New York of to-day and that of long ago will be destroyed.

"It is up to me."-Senator-elect Smeon Guaden

There has seldom been a more solemn codecration to the public weal than Mr. Guo-GENHEIM'S resolve to be a great and good Senator. It is up to all of us to admire it and to encourage him.

Politics the Trouble With the Streets

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You rticle headed "Streets Horribly Dirty states a condition and not a theory. On the latter side Commissioner Craven puts it to shortage of men and sweeping machines put it where it belongs, namely, to the fact that the Street Cleaning Department was put into politics when Mayor McClellan handed it over to Patrick McCarren.

Since that day-just before the last election-the whole department has become dehe has a mind to. After being kept out of the district leader has taken the place in authority of the district superintendent. case a man loafs on his job, and is caught at his district leader can get him out of trouble. A little experience of this, and no foreman or superintendent will take the trouble to report his loafers. Dry rot has set in, and it will get worse and worse. The pull the department out of the slough. More men would mean more loafers.

It all goes back to the man in the Mayor's chair. It is he who has betrayed the people's interest. McCarren has done and is doing according to his kind. A helpless and hopeless Commissioner is his best friend, for he is showing that a job on a broom is a safe soft snap, and that the only remedy is more places for more heelers and loafers

DISGUSTED CITIZEN. NEW YORK, January 18.

Entirely Fair!

From the Kansas City Journal. The President wants to be entirely fair in this matter. He reiterates that any innocent colored soldier discharged without a trial and without honor will be permitted to prove that the presumption of his guilt was ground-What more could a reasonable victim

Complaint of Wooden Payements. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It's a shame and an outrage on horse owners to lay wooden pavements in streets where heavy trucking is car-

cause of this surface covering. Just now a fine ble bay mare has been brought to my stable, all a-tremble, because she can't stand on her feet. It will take a couple of days to pull her together again. Can't THE SUN help us in this fight? JOHN B. MURPHY. NEW YORK, January 18.

ried on. Hundreds of horses are down all the time

and traffic is often stopped on those streets be

Panama's Want of Reading Matter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: An article Monday's SUN told of the need of magazines and papers in Panama. I have a large quantity of them, but do not know how or to whom they should be sent, or who bears the expense. The rail roads and express companies furnish free trans portation for reading matter for certain institu tions. Do they perform a like service for the work rs in Panama? (Mrs.) G. E. YOUMANS, EAST ORANGE, January 17.

Quarrelling With a Sound Old English Idiom TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I agree with "X." in to-day's SUN that your persistence in us the expression "had better" is most annoying. ing the adverb from the sentence in ques tion, it becomes: "Mr. Shaw had hoist the danger

Is that grammatically expressed? BLIZABSTH M. SMITH

MILFORD, Conn., January 17. Sea Fish in Fresh Water.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The finny folk of the briny deep are colonizing the lakes and rivers. It has been found by experi ment in Germany that deep sea fish can be accil mated in fresh water and will live and breed i rivers. A number of different kinds of fish wer taken from the sea, including whiting, herring sole and flounders, and kept in a pond of sait water The percentage of salt was gradually lessened by the addition of fresh water until finally no sal emained. Practically no material difference tool place in the fish, which were as lively and health after the treatment as when taken out of the sea encouraging has been the result after a ten extending over several months that the fish

are being introduced into the various rivers and

resh water lakes in order to bring the experiment

to a practical issue. The success of this exp ment may change entirely the fishing industry.

Paris Revisited. H. Watterson in the Courier-Journal It was 9 o'clock when we rolled into St. Lazare The Column was still standing in the Place Ven me, though the blinds were up in the shops along the Rue de la Paix. A cold and drizzling rain was failing from the skies and oozing up from the as phalt. I looked in at Henry's and there were the

ame old red noses. APENNINES THE MORNING AFTER We were just in time to caich the Rapide of Satur day night due in Barcelona Sunday noon. The deepers are of what used to be known in the United States as the Mann bouder type. And thus we were swiftly borne under the toppling Apennines

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 .- The capital this veek has been the scene of a convention of business men from all parts of the United States. They met to consider the variou ways in which our foreign trade may be increased and extended. They have talked much among themselves and have lisened to addresses from the President, from Secretary Root, Secretary Straus, Speaker Cannon and other distinguished gentle men, including the Hon. John Barrett, who

also spoke. The convention and its purpose are worthy of a larger attention than they have received. It is to be hoped that full reports of some of the addresses will be pubished and widely circulated. Much was said that is worth a careful perusal. Mr. Root's comments on the dual tariff and on our relations with Latin America; the argument of Mr. Straus for international sequaintance and comity; Mr. Cannon's remarks about the tariff and ship subsidies and the President's views on a variety of topics are all of important significance and

paded with instruction. Yet little was said about what is perhaps the most important feature of our export trade question; namely, the fact that we have no defined foreign trade policy, and while we have a considerable assorti official machinery intended for the advancement of our commercial interests, it does not work in unison and it does in many ways work at cross purposes. Our State De-partment concerns itself with matters of oreign trade, and the enabling act creating the Department of Commerce and Labo ncludes the declaration that "it shall be he province and duty of said department to foster, promote and develop the forign and domestic commerce of the United

These departments have their respective pureaus and their particular agents and gencies. To some extent they work together. In many ways their work is independent, and it is sometimes conflicting It is constantly being suggested here that his machinery, which represents a coniderable annual expenditure, would become rastly more effective if the branches were armonized or entirely unified.

SHAH AND AMEER.

Death of Persian Ruler Affects Candida for Throne of Abdur Rahman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Th at the present time seems to have attracted very little attention in the United States ugh at a time when the young Shah of Persia has ascended the throne of that ancient kingdom the visit of the Ameer of Afghanistan to the Viceroy in Calcutta is epoch making event for the British Empire India. From the telegram sent a few days ago in which King Edward addressed the fghan ruler as "Your Majesty" it is clear that the British Government intends to recomnize the Ameer of Afghanistan as an independent sovereign.

From Angus Hamilton's book I gather that the present Ameer, Habeeb Ullah Khan, alls very far short of his father, Abdur Rahman, both in regard to his physical and noral character. He is described as a man of uncertain temperament, singularly susied and much divorced monarch. The first Queen is the daughter of an Afghan noble nd draws a yearly allowance of \$50,000. She s the mother of a son only 16 years of age 'he second wife is known as "the Hindustani Queen," and is of royal birth. She receives \$40,000 a year, but has no son. The third wife the daughter of an Afghan Prince and Strange to say, the fourth Queen is the mother of the heir to the throne, Prince Inayat Ullah Khan, born in 1888, and she receives the mod-

est stipend of \$7,000 a year. The dominant influence in the Ameer's household at the present time, however, is the Queen Dowager, Bibi Halima, who in the time of the late Ameer held a position re-China. She is the stepmother of the present Ameer, his mother being deceased, but her ympathies are said to be so distinctly British that her palace is regarded by the Ameer suspicion. She has a son named Muhammed Omar Khan, and it is thought that if the present Ameer does not yield to the demands of the British Government Omar Khan, who was born in 1889, may be placed on the throne by the British Government. In his private life the present Ameer seems to be both dissipated and intemperate. and in no sense a worthy successor of Abdur Rahman, who was a remarkable ruler. The Ameer's brother, Nasar Ullah, who is 32 years age, visited England a few years ago and made a most unfavorable impression. Being the offspring of a slave girl, he is not regarded with great respect by the nobles of the country.

Ever since the taking of Herat from Persia and handing it over to the Ameer of Afghanistan through British influence there has been a constant rivalry between the Ameer of Afghanistan and the Shah of Persia, and the sudden death of the aged Shah and the accession to the throne of a highly educated Persign Prince is calculated to make the present position of the Ameer of Afghanistan one hat will call forth the criticism of Eastern statesmen. The time has come when the ndependent kingdom of Afghanistan have a royal ruler, and if the present Ameer does not rise to the occasion there will undoubtedly be a revolution in Cabul, which may set Omar Khan on the Afghan throne. NEW YORK, January 18. ORIENTALIST.

Spring Comes to Indiana.

Mitchell correspondence Indianapolis News. Spring has come again for sure in this part of idiana, if nature has not got her dates mixed The warm weather of the last few weeks has awakened animal and vegetable life from a short winter sleep. Bluebirds are carrolling, robins are fluting their notes, and the toothsome redeve is searching

bunch of angleworms. Snowdrops, crocuses, tulips and violets are in bloom: rosebuds are sending out tiny leaves, and even larger shrubbery is showing leaves. Bees have been out of their hives every day for two weeks, and bugs are flying about.

George Elrod and John W. Adamson, who live several miles northeast of here, report that every night the valley along White River is filled with flying and flashing fireflies. Mr. Adamson is 6 years old, and it is the first time he has ever seen Orefles in January. They have never before been The mild, balmy weather has even affected femin nity, and bare heads and white lawn dresses a seen occasionally. Besides, there is evidence tha young men's thoughts are lightly turning to love

2 Mutch. Knicker-I see they are suggesting a habitation Bocker-Great Scott! Don't we pay the janito

A Plea for Mere Man. The latest charitable scheme Proclaimed with tongue and pen: A refuge for stenographers From wicked business men.

'Tis well to feed their tender souls With lunchroom tes and cake But on the W. B. M Will no one pity take?

For oft sweet, pompadoured young things Phonetically spell And turn a lucid business note To Choctaw weird and fell.

Ah, then erect your rescue guild Where man may flee for rest. And calm his troubled breast.

There let a tempting meal be serve To turn dark thoughts from drink And save the W. B. M. From black destruction's brink.

Some Need of It, but No Reflection Upon the Average Business Man Implied. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Rev. W. Montague Geer, vicar of St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway, doesn't owe anybody an apology for his "typewriter guild" idea, with all respect for "An Employer," who thinks

> ity in the business section. "An Employer" seems to think Dr. Geer's ides a reflection upon the morality of the class of women he would help and an insult to their employers. I am under the impres-sion that Dr. Geer has said no word of blame for women stenographers, and no word of blame for the majority of employers. He employers who use their positions to seek to take advantage of their women employees. Dr. Geer has offered a lunchroom and legal aid to those women who wish them. There-fore he "insinuates they are immoral," ac-

fore he "insinuates they are immoral, cording to your correspondent.

"An Employer" thinks our women to writers so safe in all offices! Is there a in the downtown district who does not for a case where this is not really true? majority of offices leave nothing to be sired, says Dr. Geer, but there are whose women employees would well legal aid and be glad to have a place to in quiet and without annoyance. No n quiet and without annoyance.

man can doubt it.

Any movement to accord to the women of our country more pretection and more courtesy should be favored by all men, without regard to senseless twaddle about "insuits" and "aspersions." Little enough reard for our working women is shown to-day in subway or surface cars. A girl is astoniated if the black will of avening napers gard for our working women is shown to-day
in subway or surface cars. A girl is astonished if the blank wall of evening papers
which she stares into nightly breaks to give
her a seat. She may be sick, weak, half dead
with fatigue, but, as a rule, no seat for her.
"She shouldn't be riding in the cars at this
hour," says the "man" "The last one didn't
thank me," says he. I often wonder what the
"man" says when his wife or his sister or
his mother receives this treatment from
other "men."
KENNETH GROESBECK.
NEW YORK, January 18.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I do not think any sensible stenographer in New York took the Rev. Mr. Geer's remarks in the sense complained of by "Employer," wrote an indignant letter to THE SUN. of us look upon Dr. Geer's agitation as a boon and wish it well. More power to the tected women. Having no union, we are situation is growing worse. The business ols turn out so many thousa are willing to do fairly good work for a little money that by and by salaries will be nil or next to it.

I do not think Dr. Geer desires to extend the benefits of his guild to those who need them, who are many. The chief feature of his plan is the provision of a shelter for the girls at noon hour. "Employer" speaks f many ten cent bunch places. he thinks that all girls can afford a ten cent unch, but I can inform him that some cannot, and either go without or bring a pocket lunch

and either go without or bring a pocket lunch from home. This they cannot eat in their offices, as pride restrains them, and so they seek the precincts of dear old St. Paul's, blessed spot, to discuss their sandwiches and exchange chatter such as girls love.

I would be willing to wager that there are few women stemographers in the downtown district who could not contribute their quota of experiences to what Dr. Geer and his lay workers have learned. How can good men know of these things? Leaving out the moral issues involved, some men who have money to pay a young woman for typewriting are not fit for the position of official head of an office. I recall a case where an employer borrowed the ring of his typewriter, pawned it, discharged her, and left her to recover it by law. A girl does not like to speak of an affair like this, or in fact of any indignities, because most people instantly tax her with having been forward. While this is true in many cases it is not in all.

I think the good yiear of St. Paul's wants affair like this, or in fact of any indignities, because most people instantly tax her with having been forward. While this is true in many cases it is not in all.

I think the good vicar of St. Paul's wants first and foremost to reach the worthy, self-respecting, retiring young women who really need help, advice and a shelter at the outset of their careers. I do not believe that he has any other in mind. While girls, as has been suggested, have home training often of the best, business life is not home life, and there are conditions in the outside workaday world that mothers do not know of unless they have been in business themselves, which

rarely the case. Having an office of my own, and numbering Having an office of my own, and numbering my girl friends by the score, i know how much they would appreciate a quiet, pleasant place where they could drop in and pass the noon hour, and incidentally talk over their little troubles and perplexibles. I believe a guild would fill a long felt want in this respect, and hope that no one will mistake the kindly aim of Dr. Geer.

Jesus 17.

JERSEY CITY, January 17.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I desire o indorse in the strongest terms the letter of "An Employer," which is published in THE

Bun of January 16. For more than thirty years I have employed from two to five women in my office as atenographers and typewriters. One of them was with me for twenty-four years. Two have married, and have married well. An employer might have done much worse than to have married either. During these thirty years the number of young women who have been in my employment has been quite large also have been in close association with business men who employed numbers of similar young people. So far as my office is concerned I am positive that the of women in it has been beneficial. Coarse language and boisterous conduct, which all too frequently take place where only men are employed, do not occur where women are present. The presence of ladylike women

employed, do not occur where women are present. The presence of ladylike women in an office compels an employer to keep a curb on his to have when he is out of temper; and this, to say the least, does him no harm.

My ebservation is that both men and women who are employed in business offices recognize, as do their employers, that the transactions between them must be on a business basis or the office business cannot be carried on. Consequently employers insist upon all questions of sex being eliminated, and know that, as a matter of discipline, if for no other reason, they caunot afford to have firtations with the young women in their employment. Even if the contrary were the case the women have much to do and have neither the time nor the inclination to firt.

Of course there are exceptions to all rules. There are some foolish girls in business as well as unscrupulous men. But with rare exceptions the young women who act as stenographers and typewriters are educated, intelligent, respectable people, supporting themselves, and usually some others, by their labor. Most of them are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves, and do so.

The statements which I understand the Rev. W. Montague Geer to have made in regard to the flittations and dangers to which typewriters are exposed from unprincipled employers are simply those exaggerated assertions which, I regret to say, are too often made by clergymen who mean well but are without any practical knowledge of the affairs of life which they are talking about.

New York, January 18.

Spirited Protest From "One of Them."

Spirited Protest From "One of Them." TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Leaving aside he question of bad taste and an utter lack of the eternal fitness of things shown by the Rev. Mr. Geer, he certainly gives a characteristic exhibitton of the "preacher" governmental idea in call-ing for the rescue of "the shorthand girl."

If A. T. Stewart conspicuously failed to under-stand the feminine point of view of "protection":

If Martha Washington Hotels have more or less

uphill work in persuading the fair sex to seek shelter "far from the madding crowd," how does the reverend doctor expect the (usually) well bred, intelligent and always independent New York stenographer girls to flock to his asylum for refuge, thus proclaiming themselves to friends ar ployers as not immune? And besides, who is to protect them from the officers, cierks and lawyers as not immune? And besides, who is to employed by the stenographers' guild? The girls are pretty much "all to the good," and

can as a rule be counted on to take care of them-ONE OF THEM, NEW YORK, January \$7.

A Counter Proposal.

NEW YORK, January 17.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I suggest that the downtown women stenographers of city organize a "refuge" to which members of the clergy whose time hangs heavy on their hands, and who are obliged to resort to bizarre expedients for killing it, can repair at the noonday hour and partake of a sandwich and a cup of coffee at cost prices, free from the temptations which beset them their calling. An elderly lady stenographer might preside over the establishment and "make

Нарру Езсаре.

Washington had just been hailed as the Father of his Country. "Good!" he gasped. "I was afraid they might make me a City Pather."

NEW BOOKS.

By Anna Katharine Green.

Trouble in room 81. Where was Mrs. ansom? Not deviating from her habit, Anna Katharine Green establishes immedistely an interesting problem for the reader of her new story, "The Chief Legatee" (The Authors and Newspapers' Asso. ciation). To the detective who appeared promptly in answer to the sharp summons of the hotel clerk, Mr. Ransom, occupant of room 81, related a brief and curious story: I was married to-day in Grace Church. At the altar my bride-you probably know her name, Miss Georgian Hazen-wore a natural look, and was in all respects, so far as any one could see, a happy woman, satisfied with her choice and pleased with the éclat and elegancies of the occasion. Half way down the aisle this all changed. I remember the instant perfectly. Her hand was on my arm and I felt it suddenly stiffen. I was not alarmed, but I gave her a quick look and saw that something had happened."

That is the way in which Mr. Ransom's

story began. A strange, humiliating, pain-

ful state of things. On her way from the

altar, only a moment a bride, Mrs. Ransom,

a strikingly beautiful woman, rich in her

own right and married to a millionaire of agreeable personality, started and exerted a nervous pressure on her husband's arm. and before the sun of that day had set the police were summoned to ascertain, if possible, what had become of her. According to Mr. Ransom's story, the disappearance of Mrs. Ransom had been little less than miraculous. After the ceremony in Grace Church there had been a reception at the house of the bride's uncle. Here nothing remarkable had happened, except that a stranger, a man with a twisted jaw-a distinctly noticeable and unpleasant disfiguration-had, in offering his congratulations, whispered in the ear of the bride a few words which Mr. Ransom had not been able to overhear. At the end of the reception Mrs. Ransom had preferred to her husband a somewhat curious request. She had asked that instead of proceeding immediately upon their contemplated wedding journey they might go to some quiet hotel for a few days of rest. She had also asked that on the way to the hotel, in the carriage, he would not speak to her or touch her Wa had consented. After she had changed her dress they had proceeded silently together to the hotel. "She entered the office with me and was standing close at my side all the time I was writing our names in the register. said Mr. Ransom in concluding his story to the detective. "But later, when I turned to ask her to enter the elevator with me, she was gone, and the boy who was standing by with our two bags said that she had slipped into the reception room across the hall But I didn't find her there or in any of the adjoining rooms. Nor has anybody since succeeded in finding her." She had gone, and the reader will find his bosom full of that gratifying disturbance which must attend when a mystery has been established, and when he and the detective have entered the mouth of a promising labyrinth together. In a second story room overlooking the

9 o'clock on a stormy April night Mr. Ransom sat covertly awaiting the surreptitious coming of Mrs. Ransom and her twin sister, Anitra, who was variously understood to have been burned to death and to have been carried off by gypsies when she was a child. Mrs. Ransom had arranged to meet her lawyer, Mr. Harper, at this obscure Connecticut spot for the purpose of making will. Mr. Ransom had visited the ceme tery in the course of the rainy afternoon cutter, who was wetly engaged in obliterating the name of Anitra from the Hazen family. From his darkened window Mr Ransom saw the 9 o'clock stage arrive. Mrs. Ransom descended, announcing to the hospitable landlady that Anitra had left the stage a few miles back, desiring the mad delight of walking in the rain, and would be along presently. In bell like tones the beautiful Mrs. Ransom asked to be shown to her room. "She'll get her death!" cried the lanclady, referring to Anitra. But Anitra had the gypsy hardihood. She arrived in due season. She had mad ways. By all appearances and tests she was as deaf as a post. "Georgian's form! Georgian's face!" muttered Mr. Ransom, observing from his secret post. But not Georgian's ways and not Georgian's nature," he added. He seemed to find the

approuch to the front door of Hunter's

Tavern in the village of Sitford, Conn., at

That night the swollen mill waterfall roared with a voice of thunder. The people in Hunter's Tavern seemed to be asleep. Anitra had long since had her supper. In ordering this meal she had revealed a wild trait of her gypsy nature. From the door of her chamber she had shouted: "Bring me something to eat. I don't want tea and I don't want soup: I want meat, meat! And I sha'n't go down afterward, either. I'm going to stay right here. I've seen enough of people I don't know. And of my sister, too. She was cross to me because I hated the coach and wanted to walk, and she sha'n't come into my room till I tell her to. Don't forget; it's meat I want, just meat and something sweet. Pudding's good." Anitra's announcement that she had seen enough of her sister will be remarked. In her somewhat studiously declared willingness to be alone there is a hint for the reader who wishes to exercise his own powers of divination.

difference comforting.

But as we say, the waterfall thundered. The will had been drawn and Georgian had signed it. It was half past 1. At that profound hour "all in the house were startled by a wild and piercing cry rising from one of the rooms. Terror was in the sound and in an instant every door was open save the two which were shut upon Georgian and her twin sister." In one of these rooms hand was heard fumbling with a lock Then: "Anitra's door fell back and a wild mage confronted those who had collected in the passageway. With only a shawl covering her nightdress, the gypsy like creature stood clawing the air and answering with wild gurgles the looks that ap pealed to her, till suddenly her hot glances fell on Roger Ransom, when she instantly became rigid and stammered out: She's gone! I saw her black figure go by my window. She called out that the waterfa drew her. She went by the little halcon and the roof. The roof was slippery w the rain and she fell. That's why I screame But she got up again. What is she going to do at the waterfall? Stop her! Stop her She hasn't steady feet like me, and I wasn't really angry. I liked her. I liked her

Had Georgian, the lovely heroine tale, one of the most ingenious and finish actresses of her time (though she no played in a theatre), really jumped out the window and flung herself into the waters of the thundering fall? It would be becoming in us to tell. We have set for certain of the preliminary facts. She run away from her husband on her wed ding day. She had made her will. In deep cavern where the waters swirled in whirlpool of tempestuous madness a perate man descended and brought u woman's satchel. It had belonged Georgian. The man declared that he seen Georgian wedged in a crevice and dead at the bottom of the cavern. There are